Calcutta December 30th 1843.

Very dear brethren—

A few days previous to my embarkation from the United States I received a letter from your corresponding Secretary of the Com. on Foreign Missions, soliciting a correspondence after my arrival on heathen ground. And though I have but just reached the shores of India, yet I feel that I could not better serve your purpose in requesting a correspondence than by spreading before you some account of the religious state of affairs in this city of palaces. This I do the more readily as I believe the subject will be new to most of you and itself deeply interesting. I say new for I don't recollect ever meeting with any doc. relating thereunto either in the Reading Room or Society's Library. & if I except a mere allusion in one of Dr Alexander's lectures on Pastoral Theology to the Scottish Genl. Assembly's school I think it may safely be affirmed little else is known. This want of Docs. I hope to supply, & if successful will transmit them through our Missionary Rooms in N.Y. before the completion of your present term if possible, & if not, by the commencement of your next session. That this subject will prove interesting & profitable I infer not only from your profession of discipleship, but your prospective profession as Ministers of the Lord Jesus for to such whatever bears on the interests & enlargement of the Saviour's Kingdom must be a source of deep profit & pleasure. To Presbyterians the Scottish Genl. Assembly's Institution presents a subject first in importance & of uncommon interest. Under the superintendence of such men as Dr Duff & Rev Messrs. Mackay, Ewart & Smith—

(men abundantly qualified to preside over any Institution in whatever country, be it Europe or America) it has struggled through much opposition & is now on the pinnacle of success & the admiration of the world. Combining a collegiate with a preparatory department it affords instruction at the present time to 900 Hindu youths. And it is a most delightful fact that whilst it advocates boldly an uncompromising Bible education, it exceeds in numbers & favor the Hindu College, which prides itself in leaving the religious sentiments of its pupils free & unshackled. Four days after my arrival here I was invited by Dr Duff to be present at an examination of the students, & to me it was surprising to witness their proficiency in every branch of knowledge — simple, metaphysical, philosophical & theological. These boys all write & speak English as accurately as the Collegians of Princeton & are more familiar with the standard English Authors than most of the young men in America. Besides the Scottish (General Assembly's) Mission Institution there is one in connection with the London Missionary Society (Independents) under the superintendence of Rev. I. Campbell; one in connection with the English Baptist Mission, under the superintendence of Rev W. W. Evans; & one in connection with the Church Missionary Society (Low Church or Evangelical Episcopalians) under the superintendence of a local committee. These are all flourishing Institutions & by their Educational Efforts coupled with religious instruction are exerting a mighty influence in undermining the huge & diabolical system of Hinduism. But whilst so much is doing here for the Education & christianization of the males I regret to say there is but little effort made for the restoration of females. It is true these are not as accessible as the males but the same efforts are not made in their behalf. And here I may state a fact that has come under my observation, that whilst there are upwards of 3000 boys in & around Calcutta in a course of Education, there are not 300 girls similarly circumstanced. Another subject which I [illegible] mention without expressing a decided opinion & which is exciting great attention here at present is the condition of native Christians. The Missionary brethren here are much divided in sentiment about them. Some take the position that they are most corrupt & have been induced to become Xns from mercenary motives. others again, say that though they are not at all what we could wish yet they are true Xns & are actuated by true gospel motives. I said I would not express an opinion but I may state an inference. The very fact that a discussion of this kind is in progress discloses this much, all is not right. There seems to be a general feeling of dissatisfaction with the native converts. There is danger however on the other hand of erecting too high a standard. We certainly cannot expect as much of Hindoo converts as American Christians. Covetousness & lying enter into the composition of every Hindoo. [illegible] will do almost any thing however mean or wicked for a pice, one-fourth of a cent, it however much it may be to their interest they find it quite impossible to refrain from telling lies, it being so thoroughly incorporated with their nature & education from infancy. The Church at home must be prepared to hear sad news on this subject before a great lapse of time. I now close with a few words about myself:

I arrived here the 4th of December & received a most cordial welcome from the Missionary brethren of all denominations & will leave here in two days by an overland journey to Futtehgurh. My station is at Mynpoorie where Mr Scott has gone to open a new station. I shall be happy to hear from you soon there. Remember me affectionately to your beloved Professors; & believe me

Socy of Inquiry —

yours in Xtn affection
J. Johnston Walsh.

You have probably heard of the death of Mr. Janvier's son & also of Mr. Campbell's, which took place during the annual meeting of the Lodiana Mission at Meerut. I have just rec.d ye pleasing news that 9 of the orphan boys at Futtehgurh have been admitted to the communion.

Mr. Wm. A. Wescott
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